



# Halton District School Board

## HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### Special Education Advisory Committee

JW Singleton Education Centre (Board Room), Burlington

Tuesday February 7, 2017, 7pm

## MINUTES

Present: Denise Nacev, **Chair** (Member-at-Large); Amy Collard (Trustee Alternate); Jason Bartlett, (Member-at-Large); Leah Reynolds (Trustee Representative); Tammy Beattie (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton); Diane Vandebossche (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton); Kim Graves (Trustee Representative); Richelle Papin (Trustee Alternate); Mike Brown (Halton Down Syndrome Association)

Staff: Mark Zonneveld (Superintendent); Jane Lewis (Principal of Special Education); Rebecca Bardin (SEAC Assistant)

Trustees:

Regrets: Carla Marshall (Autism Ontario); Sherry Foster (Association for Bright Children); Margaret Kew (Vice-Principal Special Education); Lucille Morris (Member-at-Large); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association)

Absent: Judy Shiels (Voice for Hearing Impaired Children); Keren Mack (Autism Ontario); Dawn Spence (Association for Bright Children)

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### 1.0 **Opening**

#### 1.1. Welcome and Call to Order

M. Zonneveld called the meeting to order at **7:04** p.m.

#### 1.2. Approval of Agenda

#66-17 J. Bartlett/D. Vandebossche

Be it resolved that the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda for February 7, 2017.

**Carried Unanimously**

### 2.0 **Call for Notices of Motion/Reports to the Board**

None

### 3.0 **Action**

#### 3.1. Minutes of January 17, 2017 meeting

#67-17 D. Vandebossche/J. Bartlett

Be it resolved that the minutes for the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee for January 17, 2017 be approved.

**Carried Unanimously**

3.2. SEAC Chair and Vice-Chair Elections

M. Zonneveld reviewed the election process as outlined in the HDSB By-laws.

M. Zonneveld requested an expression of interest from SEAC members for the position of SEAC Chair.

D. Nacev expressed her interest in the position of Chair. There were no other members that communicated an interest. D. Nacev was elected Chair of SEAC by acclamation.

D. Nacev requested an expression of interest from SEAC members interested in the position of Vice-Chair. There were no members that came forward. K. Graves expressed her interest in filling a temporary position of Vice-Chair should it be required.

3.3. Special Education Plan Revisions/Approval

M. Brown emailed HDSA requests and suggestions for the Special Education Plan revisions.

T. Beattie requested that an update be made to HDSB as the link on page 9 of the Special Education Plan refers to the SEAC question and answer document that was previously found on the HDSB website.

These requests will be reviewed further and edits applied where applicable.

#68-17 J. Bartlett/K. Graves

Be it resolved that the Special Education Advisory Committee support the draft plan of the 2017/2018 Special Education Plan as amended.

**Carried**

D. Vandenbossche mentioned that LDAH has not supported the plan for several years. Main objection is the early intervention process. This has been stated in the past minority and majority reports and addressed by the Chair of the Board in the responses. LDAH feels there is a gap in the early literacy program and therefore cannot support the Special Education Plan.

3.4. Recommendations for Burlington PAR Committee

D. Nacev requested SEAC members provide input for PARC to consider. D. Nacev mentioned that HDSA has sent a submission to PARC outlining their recommendations.

Discussion ensued amongst the members regarding considerations that can be provided to the PAR Committee as it relates to Special Education, IEPs and transitions.

SEAC members discussed the list of priorities that they would like to be brought forward to the PAR Committee. D. Nacev will use the information gathered from the members and create a submission on behalf of SEAC.

D. Nacev requested that SEAC be given the opportunity to present to the PAR Committee. M. Zonneveld will bring this suggestion forward and report back to D. Nacev.

T. Beattie feels a presentation would be beneficial to the PAR Committee and would also allow SEAC the opportunity to answer any questions the committee may have.

3.5. Special Education Review update

D. Nacev reported that the survey has been distributed to gather the student voice. Literature provided by SEAC associations has also been sent to the consultants.

D. Nacev mentioned that a considerable amount of time was spent reviewing options of accessibility for guardians/parents while also being cognisant of the timeline.

D. Vandenbossche is concerned that parents may not ask for the support they need to allow them to complete the survey.

M. Zonneveld responded that this was discussed extensively and given a great deal of consideration.

3.6. High Safety Risk Review update

M. Zonneveld spoke to the High Safety Risk Review update and reported that the following has taken place:

- staff focus groups
- parent survey input

Next steps will likely include interviews with students with high safety risk profiles. The option of an extension of this review will be discussed with Director S. Miller. An interim report is in progress and will be brought to SEAC when complete.

3.7. Budget Process and Timeline

M. Zonneveld spoke to L. Veerman's report on budget timelines that was sent out to SEAC prior to the meeting and outlined the importance of aligning with SEAC timelines. M. Zonneveld proposed that the Student Services recommendations will be brought to the March SEAC meeting. M. Zonneveld mentioned that the Special Education Review recommendations will be important factors to consider. It was recommended that two SEAC meetings be scheduled in March to discuss SEACs budget suggestions that will be submitted to Trustees.

D. Nacev responded that Trustees request that we move the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting to accommodate the PARC meeting. D. Nacev proposed that she will create a survey to distribute to SEAC and majority will determine the outcome of the March SEAC meeting dates.

M. Zonneveld confirmed that budget workshops are scheduled and SEAC members are invited to attend these meetings.

Tentative Dates for Budget Workshops: March 8, 29, April 26 and May 10<sup>th</sup>.

D. Vandenbossche responded that we need to consider that not all SEAC members are able to attend the budget workshops.

#### 4.0 **Questions from the Public**

1. Are there IEPs for ESL students?

M. Zonneveld responded that Early Language Learners are taught by ESL teachers or are in the ESL program. This does not indicate that they have an IEP. These students may be an ELL student but not have a need for an IEP. This can sometimes be challenging to determine in the beginning stages.

2. Parent brought forward a question regarding the Sped Review Survey. Would like to know why the survey was conducted as a confidential survey and did not direct the participant to provide contact information?

M. Zonneveld responded that the survey was conducted in this manner to allow for confidential responses. This was to ensure that the responses in no way could be tracked back or identify the child. Anonymity was protected by removing any information that may have been provided otherwise.

#### 5.0 **SEAC Discussion/Question Period**

D. Vandenbossche mentioned that the SEAC circular was forwarded on to SEAC.

D. Vandenbossche requested feedback on the Funding Consultation and what was learned.

M. Zonneveld responded that there were a wide range of stakeholders involved and many open public sessions. The Ministry has not yet provided details of the outcome of the consultations.

D. Vandenbossche requested that information relating to PPM8 provided by C. Koekkoek be added to SEAC page.

#### 6.0 **Communication to SEAC**

##### 6.1. **Superintendent's Report – February 2017**

#### **1. Oakville Elementary Gifted Accommodation**

We are facing continued accommodation pressures at WH Morden for Sept 2017. The population is projected to increase by at least 60 students due to increasing self-contained gifted numbers and the school will not be losing any students who may have chosen French Immersion in grade 1 next year. Our proposed short term solution is that the current grade 5 class (20 students) at Oakwood will remain there for grade 6 (Oakwood is currently a JK-5 school), and that the current self-contained gifted grade 5's (40 students) at Pilgrim Wood will remain for grade 6. Both PW and Oakwood have space to accommodate these students, while Morden does not. We recognize that we need a longer term solution and hope the recommendations from the Spec Ed Review will help with this planning. We welcome any input from SEAC to help inform our report going to the board on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>.

A. Collard would like to find locations that could serve all students in each of the municipalities. Would like to eliminate the large number of transitions and hopes that

after this review is complete they can consolidate into one home where they will not outgrow the school.

## 2. Gifted Screening results have arrived

SEAC was informed last month that the scoring results for the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test were delayed in coming back from the third party scoring service. They have now arrived earlier than expected from a new service and are being shared with schools and parents. The associated timelines have been revised to reflect this early arrival and we expect all processes to be completed in a manageable timeframe.

## 3. Ministry Alternative Program Framework Feedback

The Ministry has invited all boards to send representatives to provide feedback on a proposed Alternative Program Framework later this month. We are sending CPP and Life Skills teachers, elementary and secondary administrators, and Student Services Department staff. D. Nacev was also invited as the SEAC representative.

### 6.2. Association Reports

ABC, D. Spence

Open House Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup> in Oakville, location is City Hall meeting room #156

LDAH, D. Vandebossche

- [Solutions for Learning Conference](#) March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Dr. Todd Cunningham guest speaker along with several other guest speakers. See link for details.
- [Lecture Series – Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>](#). Presenter is Diana Lang – providing information on transitions to High School. See link for details

Director S. Miller mentioned that he appreciates the opportunity that he has had meeting SEAC members one on one. He would like to compile the information and come back and share what he has learned with SEAC.

### 6.3. Trustee Reports

L. Reynolds

- D. Danielli reported that an extra meeting has been added to Burlington PAR.
- Redirection of Alton West – Burlington PAR could change outcome
- Ongoing Inspire Awards – beginning of every month. SEAC is welcome to nominate an individual (this can also be nominations of students) [Inspire Awards](#).

K. Graves

- D. Bower recently received an Inspire Award and was nominated by her school community
- Delegation bylaw – public consultation today and will come to board next Wednesday

A. Collard,

- Please join Robert Bateman High School's Parent Council for a special presentation on Monday, February 13 at 7 pm in the Library. The presentation will highlight the roles of the presenters, signs and symptoms to recognize when one is struggling, supports and strategies, and how to maintain a healthy mental health.

D. Nacev spoke to the letter HDSB SEAC received that Blue Water District School Board sent to the Ministry regarding the decline in ministry funding to special education.

K. Graves suggested that HDSB SEAC also send a letter to the Ministry regarding the decline in special education funding.

#69-17 K. Graves/D. Nacev

Be it resolved that the Special Education Advisory Committee will draft a letter to the Ministry regarding the decline in Special Education funding. Supporting the letter previously sent by the Blue Water District School Board.

**Carried Unanimously**

6.4. Committees and Other Reports

PIC, D. Spence

- conference taking place at Craig Kielburger, currently recruiting for committees as various tables are available
- next meeting is February 13th

Accessibility Coordinating Committee, R. Papin

- looking for comments on the appendices – feedback required by march 9<sup>th</sup>

M. Zonneveld recognized D. Nacev and A. Collard for their work in 2015/16 guiding and moving forward with agendas, discussions and behind the scenes collaboration.

7.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

Letter or presentation will come from D. Nacev by Thursday.

8.0 **Adjournment**

8.1. Motion to Adjourn

#70-17 L. Reynolds/M. Brown

“THAT the meeting be adjourned.”

**Carried Unanimously**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm